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Letter from Camp Bowie, Texas, July 12, 1942

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July 12, 1942

Dear folks;

It's my last Sunday evening in Texas for a few months - at least, and frankly I'm ready to leave too. A person does get a little tired of this kind of country. Of course I know I'll be a whole lot more busy from now on, but it will be worth it.

This past week we had about the same kind of stuff out here again. Tuesday we were out all day on a survey problem and on Wednesday morning we had a 15½ mile hike. Since my shoulders were blistered from sunburn, this hiking with a full pack on your back was pretty painful. I did get a little infection in my back to from the dye out of my fatigue clothes; but that was taken care of by using tannic acid, and now all I have is small scabs, but it won't scar so I don't care.

On Thursday and Friday we went out into the field again and let the insects feast on us — poor things they ate as though they were almost starved. We did get a few hours of sleep that night for a change. Saw my first actual cowboy on the range — we happened to be crossing a cattle ranch (about 7000 acres) and the owner has about 1000 head of Texas Longhorns also has several hundred goats.

On Saturday morning we got ~~a rather~~ some more of our last month's pay — I still have a few dollars coming though. Let me know when my first War-Bond comes home — it is supposed to come direct from the Treasury Department.

Since I couldn't send out any laundry last week, I did it myself on Saturday afternoon and today I washed all my shoes so I'm practically ready to shave off tomorrow. I sold my bed-roll today since I didn't have any room to take it along.

As you probably know we are leaving here tomorrow evening at about 11 P.M.. There are five of us going from this Battery, so I guess we won't get home. I'm not certain of my exact address but I'll write Genevieve as soon as I get there so you can find out my address from her then.

I have been wondering how myna has been getting along lately. I hope she's feeling much better by now.

Must close now lots of love
Ralph